

Message Text

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FROM AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MZ,RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CARVER/CHAND MEETING WITH MACHEL

1. CARVER, CHAND AND PARTY MET WITH MACHEL FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

2. GPRM NO. 2 MARCELINO DOS SANTOS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION
REBELO, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY VELOSO AND OTHERS WERE ALSO PRESENT.
AS DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED, MEETING OPENED WITH LENGTHY AND RAMBLING
DISCOURSE BY MACHEL COVERING HISTORY OF FAILURES TO RESOLVE
RHODESIAN QUESTION AND FOCUSING ON APPARENT INABILITY OF UK AND
US TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS BY INSTALLING RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
IN SALISBURY.

3. CARVER BLAMED FAILURE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS ON OUR
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INABILITY TO GET DOWN TO DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH PARTIES
INVOLVED. HE PICKED UP MACHEL'S COMMENT THAT ALL HAD AGREED
THAT ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WERE SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR
DISCUSSION, URGING EARLY NEGOTIATIONS WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT.

4. MACHEL MADE CLEAR HIS VIEW THAT KEY TO NEGOTIATIONS WAS
ORGANIZATION OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD. IT WOULD NOT DO, HE

SAID, FOR LORD CARVER SIMPLY TO REPLACE SMITH. THERE MUST BE A VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE (AND MOZAMBIQUE) THAT POWER HAD INDEED PASSED TO THE MAJORITY. THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTAIN BLACK AFRICANS.

5. MACHEL DEFINED MOZAMBIQUE'S OBJECTIVES IN RHODESIA AS (1) TOTAL AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE OF ZIMBABWE, (2) A DEMOCRATIC REGIME FOUNDED ON UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, (3) NATIONAL UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND (4) POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STABILITY IN ZIMBABWE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRONT LINE STATES, OAU AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FIND UK AND US SILENCE IN THE FACE OF SMITH'S MANEUVERS AS VERY STRANGE AND TANTAMOUNT TO ENCOURAGEMENT OF HIS EFFORTS. INSTALLATION OF REGIME, HE SAID, WOULD SERVE TO BLESS CONTINUATION OF THE A IN ZIMBABWE.

6. MACHEL DEFENDED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S FAILURE TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS BY POINTING TO HIS OWN EXPERIENCE WITH THE PORTUGUESE WHEN HE REFUSED TO ENTER INTO A CEASE FIRE UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR WHAT WOULD REPLACE IT. HE NOTED THAT THE PF LEADERS WERE NOW IN MAPUTO. NKOMO WAS EXPECTED SHORTLY AND SILUNDIKA (ZAPU VICE PRESIDENT) WAS ALREADY HERE, THAT HE (MACHEL) WOULD ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN US AND THE PF AND WOULD FAITHFULLY COMMUNICATE THE VIEWS ALREADY EXPRESSED AND IN CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS.

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7. IT WAS LEFT THAT WE WOULD MEET SATURDAY MORNING WITH VELOSO, VIEIRA, HONWANA (MACHEL'S CHIEF OF CABINET), MANUEL DOS SANTOS (SECGEN OF FONMIN) FOR DETAILED REVIEW OF OUR PROPOSALS AND THEIR QUESTIONS. FOLLOWING THIS WE WOULD MEET AGAIN WITH MACHEL AND IT WOULD BE DETERMINED WHETHER OR NOT THERE SHOULD BE A DIRECT MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

8. COMMENT: IN HIS DRAMATIC WAY MACHEL WAVERED BETWEEN DEMANDS THAT WE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL OUR PROPOSAL AND INSISTENCE ON OUR LAYING OUT PRECISELY WHAT WE PLAN TO DO TO GET RID OF SMITH. THOUGH HIS PRESENTATION HAD BEEN WRITTEN OUT (PROBABLY BY VIEIRA), IT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE WELL-ORGANIZED. NOR WERE WE INCLINED TO TAKE AS A FINAL JUDGMENT HIS REJECTION OF A GOVERNMENT IN WHICH CARVER HAS FULL AUTHORITY AND WHICH DOES NOT SHARE POWER WITH AFRICANS. WE ARE ONLY AT THE BEGINNING AND IT IS EVIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

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